Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02015 041207Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 122387
R 041147Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8857
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2015

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT,LE
SUBJECT: CALL ON JUMBLATT: GALLAGHER AND DYKES

REF: SATE 4618 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING MY CALLS ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND PREMIER KARAME REPORTED SEPARATELY, I CALLED ON OPPOSITIOH LEADER JUMBLATT MARCH 3 ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING DCM WARING. I EXPRESSED WARM THANKS OF THE EMBASSY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND AMBASSADOR GODLEY PERSONALLY FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN WINNING THE RELEASE OF USIS OFFICERS GALLAGHER AND DYKES. HE ACCEPTED THEM WITHOUT SPECIAL COMMENT BEYOND GRUMBLING BRIEFLY THAT GOL HAD NOT RETURNED ANY ARMS TO THE PFLP AS LATTER HAD WISHED. I MENTIONED WARING'S ROLE IN BRINING CASE TO HIS ATTENTION THROUGH ABBAS KHALAF IN THE PAST, AND JUMBLATT INSERTED THE NAME OF DEPUTY FOUAD TEHINI. (TEHINI WAS OF COURSE THECHANNEL THROUGH WHICH FINAL RELEASE WAS COMMUNICATED TO US.)

2. AFTER I HAD DWELT ON OUR FEELING OF RELIEF AND THE HAPPINESS OF THE MEN'S FAMILIES WHO HAD BEEN WAITING IN ATHENS, JUMBLATT'S ONLY COMMENT WAS TO NOTE THAT THE WESTERN WORLD PLACED MUCH MORE VALUE ON HUMAN LIFE THAN THE EASTERN WORLD. THIS LAUNCHED US ON PHILOSOPHIC, PRAGMATIC AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION REPORTED SEPARATELY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02015 041207Z

3. LEADING NEWSPAPER AN NAHAR CARRIED BRIEF ITEM MORN-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

ING MARCH 4 MENTIONING MY CALL ON JUMBLATT AND THAT IT
LASTED AN HOUR. JUMBLATT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING I HAD
COME TO THANK HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS IN GAINING
RELEASE OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES IN PLACE OF THE NON-
EXISTENT GOVERNMENT. WE ARE CONSEQUENTLY TAKING STEPS
TO PASS AROUND WIDELY THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS HERE
THAT MY CALLS ON FRANGIE AND KARAME WERE ALSO FOR PUR-
POSE OF THANKING THEM FOR THEIR HELP IN OBTAINING
RELEASE OF THE MEN. WE DO NOT WISH TO MAKE MUCH
OF THE MATTER, BUT IT DOES INDICATE SOMETHING ABOUT
JUMBLATT.

4. COMMENT: THIS WAS LAST OF CALLS CONNECTED WITH
THANKING PEOPLE INVOLVED IN RELEASE OF GALLAGHER AND
DYKES. VARIOUS EMBASSY OFFICERS AND I HAVE
ALREADY THANKED OTHERS INVOLVED IN RELEASE OF GALLAGHER AND
DSUCH AS TEHINI, KHALAF, SURETE GENERALE DIRECTOR DAHDAH,
LUCIEN DAHDAH, SLIM, FOREIGN MINISTER TAKLA, AND THE
ALGERIAN AND INDIAN CHARGES. FOREGIN MINISTER CHOSE TO HAVE OUR
THANKS DELIVERED TO HIM OVER THE TELEPHONE AND HIS
GRACIOUS REPLY WAS THAT HE HAD SIMPLY BEEN DOING HIS
DUTY.
LAMBRAKIS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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